SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2022

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African Radio League read by ..... [your name, call sign, and QTH]

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in Afrikaans and English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on HF and various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. The audio bulletins can be downloaded from the League website at http://www.sarl.org.za%C2%A0while the text bulletin can be downloaded from https://sarlnewsbulletin.wordpress.com. To join the MailChimp bulletin mailing list, send an e-mail to the SARL Secretary.

In the news today:

THE AWA CW ACTIVITY DAY THIS AFTERNOON

E-MAIL SPOOFING

and

IS YOUR REPEATER ON THE ICASA ONLINE SYSTEM?

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

We start the bulletin with news of two silent keys

It is with deep regret that we announce that the key of Nic van Duffelen, ZR6AEZ, went silent on Saturday 29 January. From a young age, Nic was passionate about Amateur Radio, and has helped and guided many fellow Radio Amateurs over the years. Nic was the Radio Room manager at the National Amateur Radio Centre and was instrumental in the setting up and running of the 60 metre beacon and WSPR station. He was involved with the SARL Repeater Working Group and as an RF Technician will be remembered by many fellow radio amateurs for his expert advice and for repairing their equipment.

Nic was a long-standing member of the West Rand Amateur Radio Club and served several terms as Vice Chairman. He was also a founding member of the Hammies Amateur Radio Club, where he taught and mentored the youngsters. He will be truly missed by the Amateur Radio community. We extend our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

It is with deep regret that we announce that the key of Johan Bamberger, ZS6LVG, went silent on Tuesday 1 February. We extend our sincere condolences to his wife Magda, son Johan ZS6ZAC, other family and friends.

PAUSE

You are listening to a news bulletin of the South African Radio League.

THE AWA CW ACTIVITY DAY THIS AFTERNOON

The aim of the CW Activity Day is for participants to contact as many amateurs as possible on the 20, 40, and 80 m amateur bands and will run from 13:00 to 15:00 UTC this afternoon Sunday 6 February 2022. Activity will take place between 14,000 and 14,060 MHz; 7,000 and 7,035 MHz and 3,500 and 3,560 MHz. You can take part as a Single Operator All Band - Low Power (maximum 100 W); a Single operator All Band - QRP (Maximum 5 W); a Single Operator Single Band - Low Power (maximum 100 W); a Single operator, single band - QRP (maximum 5 W); or a Short-Wave Listener.

The exchange is the RST report, your name, and your grid square. A QSO with a low power station is worth 1 point and a QSO with a QRP station is worth 2 points. Certificates are awarded to the first three places and the highest single band score. Log sheets in ADIF or Excel should be sent to andyzs6ady@gmail.com by 21:59 UTC on Friday 11 February 2022. The information is on page 50 of the 2022 Blue Book.

E-MAIL SPOOFING

The Council is aware that a number of Radio Amateurs and SARL accounts are being spoofed. E-mail spoofing is when someone creates fake headers in an e-mail message intended to make the recipient believe the e-mail came from a trusted source.

If you get an e-mail from someone you know (or with whom you have dealt over e-mail), but the e-mail seems unlikely - then it is possibly spoofed (NOT sent from the person you might think it was, but by a third party altogether). Check the "from address" carefully. E-mail spoofing is easy to set up and very difficult to stop. While there are measures in place to prevent the spoofing of e-mails it remains a big problem worldwide. E-mail spoofing cannot be stopped by the spoofed person - only by steps in place on the receiver's side (typically your ISP can prevent the delivery of e-mail that comes from sources that do not meet strict (new) protocols - but this could also backfire and result in you losing legitimate e-mail too). As with any e-mail - check before you open attachments or react to the contents of the e-mail.

Examples of e-mail spoofing include (but are not limited to):

Getting an e-mail from a friend asking for money. You get an e-mail stating that the sender has lost their bank card and needs to buy groceries - and asks you to please send some small amount of money - then it is probably fake and worth checking first.

You get an offensive e-mail from someone you would not expect to be offensive. This could accuse you of something or perhaps sending some sort of pornographic or otherwise offensive material.

You get an e-mail from someone (typically your bank) asking you to click here to "login with your credentials...". Do not!

Spoofing is both a cyber-crime and a "prank" and could be aimed at the recipient

or the “sender.” The recipient is “tricked” into opening attachments or revealing some information - or simply confirming your e-mail address is active and gets you added to spam lists. The “sender” is usually targeted by sending offensive e-mails to other people who then react harshly towards the “assumed” sender - who probably knows nothing of it at the time! What to do if you suspect an e-mail is spoofed? As always, do not open attachments or simply reply. Think first and probably do nothing. Send a new e-mail (do not just hit reply) to the (assumed - the person YOU know) sender to tell them about it and confirm the message’s legitimacy.

A final thought about the sender: While you might be annoyed by the incoming e-mail - there is nothing the assumed sender can do about this. If you are getting “hundreds of e-mails from Bob” be advised - Bob is not in a position to stop the e-mails or responsible for their content.

You are listening to a news bulletin of the South African Radio League.

FEEDBACK ON THE SANDTON FOX HUNT

Richard, ZR6DE, the hunt coordinator, reports that whilst rain impacted on the participation, three intrepid Fox hunters had fun dodging the odd raindrop and finding the Fox in its waterproof furry raincoat. Matthew, ZS6MDV came in first, followed closely by Mark, ZS6MDH and then Nigel, ZS6RN. Congratulations to the hunters, you did it!

The next hunt, the first of the contest series, is scheduled for 09:00 on Sunday 27 February, so diarise it now and remember, you can take part with a simple Handy Talkie. The upcoming hunts will be even more exciting as they will be scored in various categories to ensure fairness and the points earned will count towards the Fox Hunters of 2022 awards ceremony later in the year.

Can you find the Fox? Monitor the SARL Upcoming Events Diary Forum for clues to where the Fox is expected to be hiding on 27 February.

IS YOUR REPEATER ON THE ICASA ONLINE SYSTEM?

The Repeater Working Group reminds all beacon and repeater custodians to ensure that all Club repeater licenses are updated, paid, and moved to the new ICASA online portal. All payments need to be uploaded to the new system to ensure that it is allocated. The call sign or license number as a reference when doing an EFT will not guarantee payment allocation and might result in cancellation due to non-payment or the proof thereof. The same goes for Club call signs, links, and beacon licenses. Please pay the new licence fees as announced last week in SARL News and as shown on the SARL website, as the 2021 fees will cause you to end up short and may cause cancellation.

CONTEST NEWS

The results of the Summer QRP Contest held on 22 January 2022 have been released.

1st Kobus Boshoff, ZS6BOS -180 points

2nd Anthony Williams, ZS6WT - 80 points

3rd Ludwig Combrink, ZS5CN - 48 points

Congratulations to the winner!

Thirty-six logs were received for the SARL Wednesday 80 m Club Contest. The full set of results appears in HF Happenings 981.

1st the West Rand ARC – 494 points

2nd the Bloemfontein ARC – 345 points

3rd the Northern Cape ARC – 223 points

PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to be at low levels. There are currently various sunspots with simple magnetic configurations visible. There is a high probability of C-class and a small probability of M-class flaring. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around 69. The 10 to 30 m bands will provide some good DX fun. For more information, please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za.

Finally, a diary of some upcoming events:

Today – the AWA CW Activity Day

11 February – The closing date for AWA CW Logs

12 February – The closing date for SARL VHF/UHF logs

13 February – The closing date for PEARS VHF/UHF logs

19 February – The SARL Saturday 40 m Club Contest

19 and 20 February – The ARRL International DX CW Contest

23 February – The Sandton ARC Power Hour

27 February – The Sandton ARC Fox hunt

To conclude our bulletin, a recap of our main news story:

The aim of the CW Activity Day is for participants to contact as many amateurs as possible on the 20, 40, and 80 m amateur bands and will run from 13:00 to 15:00 UTC this afternoon Sunday 6 February 2022. Activity will take place between 14,000 and 14,060 MHz; 7,000 and 7,035 MHz and 3,500 and 3,560 MHz.

This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by

following the News Inbox link on the South African Radio League web page. News items to be included in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Friday preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly radio programme, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 CAT. The programme can be heard on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower side-band by courtesy of Louis, ZS5LP. A rebroadcast by Andy, ZS6ADY, can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 CAT on 3 620 kHz.

We welcome your signal reports, comments, and suggestions; please send these by e-mail to artoday@sarl.org.za.

You have listened to a news bulletin compiled by Dennis Green, ZS4BS, proofread by Herman Erasmus, ZS6CTA, and read by .....

From the News Team, best wishes for the week ahead.